

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 LAB-01 SS-15 SIL-01 PA-01 USIA-06

HEW-02 IO-04 RSC-01 DRC-01 /051 W

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R 182100Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3376

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 24727/1

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, FR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FRANCOISE GIROUD

1. SUMMARY. ACTION PROGRAM TO IMPROVE WOMEN'S STATUS HAS BEEN DEVELOPED TO EXPAND EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND EQUALIZE THEIR RIGHTS AND STATUS TO THAT OF MEN. END SUMMARY.

2. SUMMARIZED BELOW IS ACTION PROGRAM PRESENTED RECENTLY BY MME. GIROUD, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS, DESIGNED TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S "SECURITY, RESPONSIBILITY AND PROMOTION." IN RE-
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VIEWING CURRENT STATE OF PLAN GIROUD IDENTIFIED
FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS CALLING FOR INCREASED

ATTENTION TO "FEMININE CONDITION":

A. LONGER LIFE EXPECTANCY, SUBSTANTIALLY BE-
CAUSE OF DECREASED MORTALITY AT CHILDBIRTH.

B. PROLONGATION OF "YOUTH", I.E. TIME BETWEEN
LEAVING SCHOOL AND STARTING A FAMILY.

C. SHORTENING OF PERIOD NEEDED TO PRODUCE
FAMILY OF THREE CHILDREN.

D. INCREASED NUMBER OF WOMEN WITH SECONDARY
AND HIGHER EDUCATION, NOT EASILY RECONCILABLE TO
DOMESTIC CHORES.

E. INCREASED TENDENCY BY WOMEN IN LESS FAVORED
CLASSES TO FOLLOW LIFE STYLE OF MORE FAVORED
CLASSES.

F. CHANGED MODEL OF SUCCESSFUL WOMAN TO THAT
OF CAREER WOMAN.

G. INCREASED NUMBERS OF WIDOWS AND DIVORCEES
REQUIRING MORE EMPLOYMENT OUTLETS FOR WOMEN IN AGE
RANGE 45 PLUS.

3. EDUCATION

A. SPECIAL COMMITTEE WILL EXAMINE SCHOOL
MANUALS AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS TO ELIMINATE PSYCHOLOGICAL
TYPE-CASTING OF WOMEN AT SOURCE.

B. VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE AND TRAINING FOR GIRLS
WILL NO LONGER CONCENTRATE ON CERTAIN "WOMEN'S"
OCCUPATIONS. ALL MINISTRIES HAVE AGREED THAT
COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR POSTS AND ACADEMIC
AWARDS WILL BE OPEN TO WOMEN ON EXACTLY SAME TERMS
AS MEN.

4. EMPLOYMENT

A. IN MARCH 1974 WOMEN REPRESENTED 38.1 PERCENT
OF FRENCH ACTIVE POPULATION AND NET ADDITION OF
WOMEN TO LABOR MARKET IS 150,000 P.A. OVER HALF OF
REGISTERED JOB APPLICANTS ARE WOMEN IN THE AGE
RANGES OF 18-25 AND 45 PLUS.

B. MINISTRY OF LABOR WILL ENCOURAGE WIDER USE
OF FLEXIBLE HOURS IN INDUSTRY. PART-TIME JOBS,
WHILE OBJECTIONABLE IN PRINCIPLE IN THIS CONTEXT,
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REPRESENT SOME PROGRESS AND NEW REGULATIONS WILL
SOON ENABLE FIRMS TO INSTITUTE PART-TIME JOBS FOR
WOMEN.

C. ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATION OF 1973 LAW ON
EQUAL PAY. WAGE INFORMATION GIVEN TO COMITES
D'ENTREPRISE SHOULD BE ANALYZED ALSO BY SEX AND
OCCUPATION.

D. STATUTORY INTERDICTIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF
WOMEN IN CERTAIN OCCUPATIONS (ASSISTANT METEOROLOGIST,
SURVEYOR) WILL BE ABOLISHED EXCEPT WHERE SUCH

DISCRIMINATION IS JUSTIFIED. LAWS AGAINST NIGHT
EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN WILL BE REVIEWED CONSISTENT WITH
ILO CONVENTIONS.

E. IT WILL BE MADE ILLEGAL FOR EMPLOYERS TO
REFUSE WOMEN EMPLOYMENT ON GROUNDS OF PREGNANCY OR
EVEN TO ASK SUCH QUESTION; AND POSSIBILITY IS
BEING LOOKED AT OF PREGNANT WOMEN BEING ENTITLED TO
CLAIM LIGHTER WORK WITH SAME EMPLOYER.

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F. GENERAL APPLICATION OF COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS,
PROVIDING FOR TIME OFF FOR MEN AND WOMEN TO LOOK
AFTER SICK CHILD.

G. PRINCIPLE OF SPECIAL ALLOWANCES FOR WIDOWS
UNDER 55, AND DIVORCEES WHILE SEEKING THEIR FIRST

JOB OR TRAINING HAS BEEN AGREED, AND WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN 1974.

5. CIVIL SERVICE

A. THE UPPER AGE FOR APPLICATION WILL BE RAISED TO 45 TO PERMIT RECRUITMENT OR RE-EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN WHO HAVE RAISED THEIR CHILDREN

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6. SOCIAL RIGHTS

A. AN INFORMATION CAMPAIGN WILL BE LAUNCHED TO ACQUAINT WOMEN WITH THEIR RIGHTS.

B. WIDOWS WILL, FROM 1/1/75, BE ENTITLED TO SICKNESS BENEFITS FOR A YEAR FOLLOWING THEIR HUSBAND'S DEATH WITHOUT PAYMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIAL SECURITY. THEY WILL BE GIVEN ALSO THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE OLD AGE PENSION BASED ON THEIR OWN AS WELL AS THEIR HUSBAND'S CONTRIBUTIONS.

C. DIVORCED WOMEN WILL CONTINUE TO BE COVERED BY SOCIAL SECURITY FOR A YEAR AFTER COURT DECISION. LABOR MINISTRY WILL REVIEW CASE OF DIVORCEES WHO CANNOT CLAIM REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES BECAUSE OF CHILDREN'S SICKNESS.

D. FROM 1/1/78 BOTH WIDOWS AND DIVORCEES WILL BE ENTITLED TO SICKNESS INSURANCE INDEFINITELY ON PAYMENT OF A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION.

7. WOMEN AND THE LAW

A. A WOMAN JUDGE OF COURT OF APPEAL WILL EXAMINE ALL LEGISLATION TO IDENTIFY CASES OF DISCRIMINATION IN CIVIL AND SOCIAL LAW.

B. BILL ON ABORTION WILL BE DISCUSSED IN CURRENT PARLIAMENTARY SESSION WHILE A DIVORCE REFORM BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED IN SPRING SESSION. MME. GIROUD WILL PARTICIPATE IN ITS DRAFTING TO ENSURE BETTER PROVISIONS FOR ALIMONY. TERMS OF JURY OATH WILL BE CHANGED.

8. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

A. GOF WILL PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN UN INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR WOMEN. ILO CONVENTIONS WHICH CAUSE DIFFICULTY WILL BE REEXAMINED.

9. WOMAN AND HER IMAGE

A. JUSTICE MINISTRY WILL ENFORCE LAW ON DECEITFUL PUBLICITY, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO BEAUTY PRODUCTS.

B. PUBLICITY CONTROL COUNCIL WILL BE REVIVED WITH INCLUSION OF TWO WOMEN TO SECURE ELIMINATION OF PUBLICITY CONVEYING A DEROGATORY VIEW OF WOMEN AS

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PURELY SEXUAL OR DOMESTIC OBJECTS.

10. WORKING PARTIES AND RESEARCH

A. WORKING PARTIES HAVE BEEN SET UP TO LOOK INTO VARIOUS ASPECTS OF WOMEN'S PROBLEMS. ONE OF THEM IS LOOKING INTO MINOR ROLE PLAYED BY WOMEN IN POLITICS, AND EMPLOYERS' AND TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS.

11. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

A. MINISTER OF HEALTH HAS AGREED TO EXAMINE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN DURING PREGNANCY, THIS BEING CONSIDERED AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN FRANCE'S POOR RECORD IN INFANTILE MORTALITY. TWO SOLUTIONS: EITHER TWO WEEKS' ADDITIONAL MATERNITY LEAVE BEFORE CONFINEMENT, OR MATERNITY BENEFITS EQUAL TO 100 PERCENT OF PAY (INSTEAD OF PRESENT 90 PERCENT).

B. POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING ALLOWANCES FOR WOMEN POSTPONING RESUMING EMPLOYMENT UNTIL THEIR CHILD IS EIGHTEEN MONTHS.

12. CONTRACEPTION

A. ON ASSUMPTION THAT PARLIAMENT WILL ENDORSE GOF PROPOSALS ON CONTRACEPTION LABOR MINISTRY IS PREPARED TO RULE THAT ADDRESS OF NEAREST BIRTH CONTROL ADVICE CENTER BE DISPLAYED ON FACTORY NOTICE BROADS. UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS ARE ASKED TO PROVIDE SUCH CENTERS ON UNIVERSITY PREMISES.

13. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

A. IN EACH OF 21 REGIONS, SENIOR OFFICIALS ON PREFECTURES WILL ORGANIZE A TWO WAYS COMMUNICATION FUNCTION ON WOMEN'S PROBLEMS.

B. ONE TV CHANNEL WILL DEVOTE 90 SECONDS PER DAY TO INFORMATION ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

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